

Title	TB (Specimens)
Specimen Requirements	Preferred specimen: Sputum. Volume/Amount required: >1-10 ml. Be sure to label the specimen tube with name or patient ID, DOB, and collection date.
Sampling Materials	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean, sterile, plastic, disposable container. 2. Shipping boxes or containers with appropriate shipping labels. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. UN3373 Biological Substances, Category B shipping container or b. 6A container provided by ISDH. 3. Completed ISDH request form or LimsNet cover page.
Procedural Notes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be sure to properly and clearly label the specimen tube with the patient's name, DOB, and date of collection. 2. Collect sputum early in the morning before the patient eats or drinks. It should be raised from the lungs, not saliva, and deposited directly into the furnished plastic container. 3. After collection, tighten the specimen tube cap to avoid breakage and leakage. 4. Complete the ISDH request form, ensuring that the patient information on the collection tube matches the information on the form. Request form must also include submitter and physician name/address, patient date of birth, sex, county of residence, anti-mycobacterial therapy, date of collection and specimen source. 5. Alternatively, complete a LimsNet entry for the patient, including the same patient information as for ISDH form. 6. Specimens lacking completed information will not be tested. 7. If a delay in shipping is anticipated, be sure to keep the specimens refrigerated at 4° C prior to shipping to minimize the growth of contaminants.
Shipping Instructions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Place documents in either the outer container or in a plastic bag to prevent contamination from specimen. 2. Wrap the labeled specimen collection tube with absorbent material and place in the inner plastic shipping canister, and tighten the lid securely. 3. Wrap the completed submission form or LimsNet cover sheet around the inner shipping canister, and then place both in the outer shipping cardboard canister and tighten the lid securely. 4. Complete the pre-addressed mailing label and affix to the outer packaging with a return address and appropriate shipping labels. Specimens may be shipped via private service, such as UPS or Fed Ex. 5. Specimens should be shipped to arrive at ISDH Monday through Friday. Shipping specimens which will be in transit during the weekend or holiday is not recommended. 6. All Patient specimens should be packaged and labeled in accordance with federal shipping regulations, using Biological Substances, Category B.
Reporting and TAT	<p>Laboratory reports will be sent out via LimsNet or fax. Preliminary results will be available within 1-3 business days after specimen receipt, and final culture results will be available within six weeks.</p> <p>Cultures identified as Mycobacterium tuberculosis will be forwarded to the Michigan Department of Community Health for genotyping studies.</p>